

READING FILE.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	
of the TOWN OF COLUMBUS for au-)	DOCKET NO. 6582
thority to adopt Increased Water)	
Rates.)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4431
_____)	

On May 11, 1978, the TOWN OF COLUMBUS (Applicant) filed an application with the Montana Public Service Commission for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its water rates to provide additional revenue to off-set operating deficits, to insure debt repayment, and to build an expansion fund needed to update the Town's distribution system.

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A notice of proposed public hearing to be held, if requested, was published in the May 31, 1978 edition of The Billings Gazette, Billings, Montana and the June 1, 1978 edition of the Columbus News, Columbus, Montana. The notices stated that if no requests for a public hearing were received by June 30, 1978, an appropriate order would be issued based upon evidence submitted with the application.

2. No requests for a hearing were received and no hear-

ing was scheduled.

3. On May 15, 1978 the Town Council of the Town of Columbus pass Resolution No. 272 setting water rates at the proposed level.

4. A Report on Water Rates For The Town of Columbus, Columbus, Montana was prepared by Morrison-Maierle, Inc.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceedings in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

1. The following monthly rates are authorized:

	<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>
0-3,000 gallons	\$4.50	\$9.00
Over 3,000 gallons	.99/1,000	.99/1,000

Residential Sprinkling Rate (for months of June through September) to be discounted 30% with a minimum charge of \$4.50

Minimum charge:

Residential, \$4.50; Commercial, \$9.00 (per month)


Special Charge:

A special charge of \$10.00 will be charged with water is turned off due to non-payment of bill and will be collected before water service is restored.

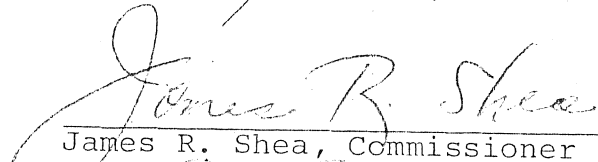
The filed tariffs shall be effective for water service rendered on and after July 5, 1978.

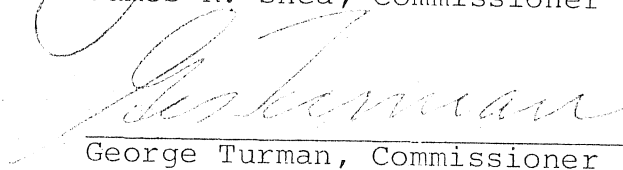
DONE IN OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana, on July 5, 1978 by a 4 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

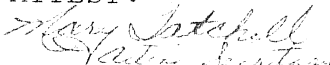

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman


Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner


James R. Shea, Commissioner


George Turman, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Madeline L. Cottrill
Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion For Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion For Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal from the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Section 82-4216, RCM 1947; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38-2.2(64)-P2750, ARM.